

Remarks/Arguments

Claims 10-29 are pending in this application, and are rejected in the final Office Action of October 20, 2006. No claim amendments are presented herein. However, a listing of all pending claims is included in this response for the Examiner's convenience.

Re: Claims 10-12, 17-19 and 24-26

Claims 10-12, 17-19 and 24-26 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(a) as being anticipated by WO 99/35847 (hereinafter, "Westlake"). Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection since Westlake fails to teach or suggest all elements of the claimed invention. Applicant first notes that independent claims 10, 17 and 24 include:

“receiving an electronic mail message remotely from a user, said electronic mail message comprising an operating command and program identification information including at least one of a first type of program identification information and a second type of program identification information;

processing said electronic mail message to determine whether said electronic mail message includes said first type of program identification information;

scheduling an event related to a program identified by said program identification information if said electronic mail message includes said first type of program identification information;

processing said electronic mail message to determine whether said electronic mail message includes said second type of program identification information if said electronic mail message does not include said first type of program identification information;

searching program guide information for said program if said electronic mail message includes said second type of program identification information; and

scheduling said event if said program is found during said searching step.” (see claim 10),

“first means for receiving an electronic mail message remotely from a user, said electronic mail message comprising an operating command and program identification information including at least one of a first type of program identification information and a second type of program identification information;

second means for processing said electronic mail message to determine whether said electronic mail message includes said first type of program identification information, and for scheduling an event related to a program identified by said program identification information if said

electronic mail message includes said first type of program identification information;

said second means processing said electronic mail message to determine whether said electronic mail message includes said second type of program identification information if said electronic mail message does not include said first type of program identification information; and

said second means searching program guide information for said program if said electronic mail message includes said second type of program identification information, and scheduling said event if said program is found during said searching.” (see claim 17), and

“an interface operative to receive an electronic mail message remotely from a user, said electronic mail message comprising an operating command and program identification information including at least one of a first type of program identification information and a second type of program identification information;

a processor operative to process said electronic mail message to determine whether said electronic mail message includes said first type of program identification information, and to schedule an event related to a program identified by said program identification information if said electronic mail message includes said first type of program identification information;

said processor processing said electronic mail message to determine whether said electronic mail message includes said second type of program identification information if said electronic mail message does not include said first type of program identification information; and

said processor searching program guide information for said program if said electronic mail message includes said second type of program identification information, and scheduling said event if said program is found during said searching.” (see claim 24)

As indicated above, independent claims 10, 17 and 24 define a method/apparatus capable of scheduling an event (e.g., program recording, etc.) in response to a received electronic mail message that includes an operating command and at least one of two different types of program identification information (e.g., channel/time information and/or a program name). The claimed method/apparatus is capable of processing the received electronic mail message to determine whether it includes either of these two different types of program identification information, and scheduling an event related to a program identified by the included program identification information.

In contrast to the claimed invention, Westlake discloses a method and interface for linking terms in an electronic message to program information in an electronic program guide (EPG). In particular, Westlake discloses a method of receiving an electronic message, comparing terms in the electronic message to terms in the program information of the EPG, and displaying the electronic message so that any terms in the electronic message which have a match in the program information based on the step of comparing terms are distinguishable from terms which have no such match (see, for example, FIGS. 3-4 and corresponding description thereof).

In formulating the instant rejection, the Examiner generally relies on FIGS. 3-5 and pages 23, 26, 31 and 32 of Westlake (see pages 2-3 of the final Office Action dated October 20, 2006). From these cited passages, it is assumed that the Examiner relies on FIG. 4 of Westlake for disclosing the claimed "electronic mail message." It is further assumed that the Examiner relies on the specific text terms in Westlake's FIG. 4 for disclosing the claimed "program identification information including at least one of a first type of program identification information and a second type of program identification information."

With the foregoing interpretation of Westlake in mind, Applicant notes that the Examiner specifically alleges that the claimed element (of claim 10) of "processing said electronic mail message to determine whether said electronic mail message includes said second type of program identification information if said electronic mail message does not include said first type of program identification information" (emphasis added) is disclosed by FIG. 4 of Westlake (see page 3 of the final Office Action dated October 20, 2006). Applicant disagrees and notes that at least the aforementioned element of the claimed invention is not taught or suggested by Westlake. In particular, Westlake teaches that its controller 1110 performs step S2 of FIG. 3 by comparing each of the text terms (i.e., the alleged "program identification information including at least one of a first type of program identification information and a second type of program identification information") in the electronic message of FIG. 4 to terms in the program information of the EPG (see page 23, lines 18-20). Accordingly, there is never a situation where the electronic message of Westlake "does not include said first type of

program identification information” (i.e., a given text term in the electronic message of FIG. 4), as claimed.

In other words, Westlake would never perform a step of “processing said electronic mail message to determine whether said electronic mail message includes said second type of program identification information if said electronic mail message does not include said first type of program identification information” (emphasis added) because there would never be a situation where the electronic message of Westlake “does not include said first type of program identification information” (i.e., a given text term in the electronic message of FIG. 4), as claimed. In contrast to Westlake, the claimed invention can encounter situations where “said electronic mail message does not include said first type of program identification information.” In view of this clarification, and the fact that Westlake fails to teach or suggest all elements of the claimed invention, Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection of claims 10-12, 17-19 and 24-26 be withdrawn.

Re: Claims 13, 15, 20, 22, 27 and 29

Claims 13, 15, 20, 22, 27 and 29 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Westlake. Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection since Westlake fails to teach or suggest all elements of the claimed invention. As indicated above with reference to claims 10-12, 17-19 and 24-26, Westlake fails to teach or suggest, *inter alia*, the claimed element of “processing said electronic mail message to determine whether said electronic mail message includes said second type of program identification information if said electronic mail message does not include said first type of program identification information.” Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection of claims 13, 15, 20, 22, 27 and 29 be withdrawn.

Re: Claims 14, 16, 21, 23 and 28

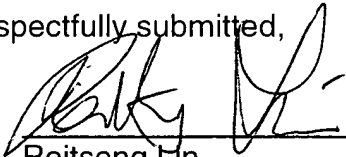
Claims 14, 16, 21, 23 and 28 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Westlake in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,374,406 issued to Hirata (hereinafter, “Hirata”). Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection since Hirata is unable to remedy the deficiencies of Westlake pointed out above. In particular, Hirata

fails to teach or suggest, *inter alia*, the claimed element of "processing said electronic mail message to determine whether said electronic mail message includes said second type of program identification information if said electronic mail message does not include said first type of program identification information." Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection of claims 14, 16, 21, 23 and 28 be withdrawn.

Conclusion

Having fully addressed the Examiner's rejections it is believed that, in view of the foregoing remarks/arguments, this application stands in condition for allowance. Accordingly, reconsideration and allowance are respectfully solicited. If, however, the Examiner is of the opinion that such action cannot be taken, the Examiner is invited to contact the Applicants' attorney at (609) 734-6813, so that a mutually convenient date and time for a telephonic interview may be scheduled. No fee is believed due. However, if a fee is due, please charge the fee to Deposit Account 07-0832.

Respectfully submitted,

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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this amendment is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as First Class Mail, postage prepaid, in an envelope addressed to Mail Stop AF, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450 on:

12-8-06
Date

E. Buchalanga